

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Hess on December 3, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows: Claim 17 has been amended as follows: -- 17. (currently amended) An extracorporeal blood filtration circuit for treating a patient's blood to remove target molecules and target complex molecules, the circuit comprising:

a line adapted to remove -- a portion of the patient's blood, deliver the blood to a blood filter -- and to return a -- an unsieved -- portion of the patient's blood;

a blood filter operably coupled with the line so as to allow the portion of the patient's blood to flow therethrough, the blood filter operable to form a stream -- the unsieved portion -- of filtered blood and a stream of ultrafiltrate with an ultrafiltration rate of between approximately two liters per hour and twenty liters per hour, the blood filter having a nominal molecular weight cutoff of greater than 150,000 Daltons and less than 1,000,000 Daltons so as to sieve more than a nominal amount of the target molecules and the target complex molecules from the portion of the patient's blood and to avoid removal of significant amounts of immunoglobulins from the portion of the patients' patient's blood;

a source for infusing a replacement fluid into the blood circuit, the source including replacement fluid comprising clean target receptor molecules in

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sufficient amount so as to provide sufficient clean target receptor molecules to sequester inflammatory mediators and toxins from the patient's tissue and to replace the target receptor molecules sieved from the portion of the patient's blood by the blood filter, and sufficient albumin to maintain adequate plasma oncotic pressure with ultrafiltration rates between approximately two liters per hour and twenty liters per hour in a sufficient concentration to adequately replenish ongoing losses. -- .

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 17 and claims dependent therefrom now clearly distinguish over all of the prior art of record, especially the Nose reference in view of claim language concerning the unsieved portion of blood being returned, with the blood filter having a molecular weight cutoff of between about 150,000 Daltons and 1,000,000 Daltons. Nose et al only returns the sieved portion of blood to a patient from a blood filter with the recited molecular weight and other prior art returning unsieved blood portions to a patient utilize blood filters of different molecular weight, thus providing blood products of different function and adapted to treat different patient conditions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JWD
12/3/2008
/Joseph W. Drodge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797